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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Sixth session
New York, 9-20 January 1995
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional Agenda

Note by the Secretariat

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Work programme for the interim period
3. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties
4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention
5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
6. Adoption of the report

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Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee, at its fifth session (Paris, 6-17 June 1994), approved the provisional agenda for the sixth session, as contained in decision 5/2 of the Report of the Fifth Session (A/49/84/Add.2).

The provisional agenda for the sixth session is submitted for adoption.

The Plenary will hear statements from representatives of INCD Member countries, Heads of UN Agencies and the Chairman of the Committee. After these statements, the Executive Secretary of the INCD Secretariat will introduce the Secretariat documents A/AC.241/29 and A/AC.241/30.

The Bureau will hold a meeting before the plenary. The date and time of the first meeting of the plenary remains to be determined. The plenary will be required to decide on organizational matters, including a programme of work for the sixth session.

2. Work programme for the interim period

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/29 from the Secretariat reviewing issues which might be taken up by the Committee during the period leading to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties with respect to the implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa, as well as other substantive matters which may need to be addressed during the interim period.

Review of the implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa will involve the review of actions taken so far concerning the preparation of action programmes, of the consultative processes among the various actors leading to the conclusion of partnership agreements, and Secretariat activities aimed at facilitating the implementation of the resolution. In this regard, the Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/30 containing a compilation of information provided by governments.

Other substantive matters to be addressed include such issues as consideration of how best to obtain scientific and technical advice during the interim period, including the establishment of a roster of independent experts, a procedure to exchange information on measures taken or to be taken by the Parties in the provisional implementation of the Convention during the interim period, and the contribution of the INCD to the consideration of Agenda 21 issues related to land management by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session (17-26 April 1995).

3. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/29 reviewing preparatory work particularly on issues which require a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure its smooth functioning. These include: the drafting of rules of procedure and financial rules; the composition of the Bureau; the preparation of a programme of activities and a budget; the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning; the adoption of the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology, as well as proposals for the establishment of the Global Mechanism for the mobilization and channelling of financial resources, agreeing with the organization identified on the modalities of the Mechanism and making appropriate administrative arrangements.

The Committee may wish to decide on a programme of work for the duration of the interim period and on the establishment of working groups, as appropriate, to address the issues covered under items 2 and 3.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

The Secretariat will present a status report on this item. The Committee may wish to consider whether any action is required to promote signature and ratification and, in the affirmative, the nature of such action.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

(a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly in the least developed countries

(b) Trust Fund for the negotiating process

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/31 submitted by the Secretariat indicating the present status of the two funds and presenting a provisional budget for activities that may be undertaken by the Secretariat during the interim period.

6. Adoption of the Report

The provisional agenda for the seventh session will be attached to the report as well as any other decisions by the Committee.

List of documents for the sixth session of the Committee

A/AC.241/28	Provisional Agenda
A/AC.241/29	Work programme for the interim period and preparation for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/30	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures in Africa
A/AC.241/31	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.8	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
A/AC.241/27	Final text of the Convention
A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an Intergovernmental Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on its fifth session

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